

**Senate File 218 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 218  
BY SHIPLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to lighting requirements for certain  
2 areas under the control of class I or class II railroad  
3 corporations.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 327D.6 Lighting equipment required  
2 — locations — reports — penalties.

3 1. Every class I railroad corporation and class II railroad  
4 corporation shall ensure any location under such corporation's  
5 control where a railroad train, as defined in section 321.1, is  
6 switched, repaired, inspected, loaded, or unloaded is lighted,  
7 naturally or artificially, by a safe type of lighting any time  
8 a railroad train is switched, repaired, inspected, loaded, or  
9 unloaded.

10 2. Every class I railroad corporation and class II railroad  
11 corporation shall maintain the lighting equipment installed in  
12 accordance with this section.

13 3. Artificial lighting equipment must provide adequate  
14 lighting and minimize light pollution and glare that may affect  
15 persons outside of the illuminated area.

16 4. Every class I railroad corporation and class II railroad  
17 corporation shall adopt an installation and maintenance  
18 schedule and file a report detailing the lighting equipment  
19 installation and maintenance schedule adopted by the  
20 corporation, the associated costs, and the locations controlled  
21 by the corporation that are required to be lighted with the  
22 department no later than December 15 of each year.

23 5. A railroad corporation is responsible for all costs  
24 associated with the installation and maintenance of the  
25 lighting equipment at all required locations under such  
26 corporation's control.

27 6. As used in this section:

28 a. "Class I railroad corporation" means the same as a  
29 class I rail carrier, as defined by the federal surface  
30 transportation board.

31 b. "Class II railroad corporation" means the same as a  
32 class II rail carrier, as defined by the federal surface  
33 transportation board.

34 7. Notwithstanding section 327D.17, a violation of this  
35 section is a schedule "two" penalty under section 327C.5.

1

EXPLANATION

2

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
3 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3

4 The federal surface transportation board (STB) is an  
5 independent federal agency that is charged with the economic  
6 regulation of various modes of surface transportation including  
7 primarily freight rail. The STB has defined three classes of  
8 railway carriers, designated as class I, class II, and class  
9 III respectively according to annual revenue criteria. The  
10 STB thresholds, last adjusted for inflation in 2019, for a  
11 class I carrier includes a carrier earning revenue greater than  
12 \$504,803,294. A class II carrier is a carrier earning revenue  
13 between \$40,387,772 and \$504,803,294. A class III carrier is a  
14 carrier earning revenue less than \$40,387,772. There are seven  
15 class I freight railroad companies in the United States and  
16 five operate in Iowa.

17 This bill requires every class I railroad corporation and  
18 class II railroad corporation to ensure any location under  
19 such corporation's control where a railroad train is switched,  
20 repaired, inspected, loaded, or unloaded is lighted, naturally  
21 or artificially, by a safe type of lighting any time a railroad  
22 train is switched, repaired, inspected, loaded, or unloaded.  
23 Under the bill, a "railroad train" is an engine or locomotive  
24 with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails. The  
25 bill defines "class I railroad corporation" to mean the same  
26 as a class I rail carrier, as defined by the STB, and a "class  
27 II railroad corporation" to mean the same as a class II rail  
28 carrier, as defined by the STB.

29 The bill requires each applicable railroad corporation to  
30 maintain the lighting equipment installed in accordance with  
31 the bill. Such artificial lighting equipment is required  
32 to provide adequate lighting and minimize light pollution  
33 and glare that may affect persons outside of the illuminated  
34 area. The railroad corporations must adopt an installation and  
35 maintenance schedule and file a report detailing the lighting

1 equipment installation and maintenance schedule adopted by the  
2 corporation, the associated costs, and the locations controlled  
3 by the corporation that are required to be lighted with the  
4 department of transportation no later than December 15 of each  
5 year.

6 Each railroad corporation is responsible for all costs  
7 associated with the installation and maintenance of the  
8 lighting equipment at all required locations under such  
9 corporation's control.

10 A violation of the bill is a schedule "two" penalty under  
11 Code section 327C.5, a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than  
12 \$500 per violation.